

Chapter Ind 55

THEATERS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

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Ind 55.001 Theaters. In the theater classification, are included all buildings or parts of buildings, containing an assembly hall, having a stage which may be equipped with curtains or permanent or movable scenery, or which is otherwise adaptable to the showing of plays, operas, motion pictures or similar forms of entertainment.

Ind 55.01 Assembly halls. (1) In the assembly hall classification are included all buildings, or parts of buildings, other than theaters, which will accommodate more than 100 persons for entertainment, recreation, worship or dining purposes.

Note: For assembly areas in connection with schools and other places of instruction, refer to ch. Ind 56.

Note: Funeral homes are considered places of worship.

(a) Every place of assembly which will accommodate not more than 100 persons shall conform to the requirements of ch. Ind 54.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par.), Register, March, 1972, No. 195, eff. 4-1-72; am. (1) (a), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80.

Ind 55.02 Class of construction. (1) The capacities of buildings or parts of buildings in this classification for the various types of construction shall not exceed, and shall comply with, the following requirements:

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MAXIMUM CAPACITIES

Type of Construction	With Stage	Without Stage
Type 1 and 2.....	No limit	No limit
Type 3 and 4.....	750	1,500
Type 5 and 6.....	500	1,000
Type 7 and 8.....	300	750

(a) Exception. For unlimited capacity, the fire protection of structural steel supporting the roof may be omitted for one-story buildings meeting type 1, 2 and 3 construction provided the building has no ground or basement floors. Heavy timber columns and roof framing may be substituted for structural steel framing. The roof decking shall be of noncombustible or heavy timber construction.

(2) Type 7 and 8 construction. (See s. Ind 51.03.) Where buildings of these classifications are erected of type 7 or 8 construction, the following restrictions shall apply:

(a) Not more than one story in height without a balcony, and with no ground floor or basement except a heating and fuel room enclosed with fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 55.29, with all interior openings protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

1. *Exception.* Places of worship are permitted to have a full basement or ground floor and a balcony having an occupant load of not more than 30 persons.

2. *Exception.* One-story and ground-floor assembly halls of type 7 or 8 construction will be permitted providing the following conditions are satisfied:

a. Both levels shall exit directly to grade. One exit stair from the lower level up to the exit discharge grade is permitted providing the stair is enclosed to the outside by 2-hour fire-resistive rated construction;

b. The ground story exterior walls shall be of masonry or concrete;

c. The lower level shall be separated from the upper level by 2-hour noncombustible fire-resistive rated construction or better. The first floor supports shall also be of 2-hour noncombustible fire-resistive rated construction;

d. All stairways shall be enclosed by at least 2-hour fire-resistive rated enclosures;

e. The maximum capacity of the building is limited to 750 occupants; and

f. All other requirements of ch. Ind 55 are satisfied.

3. *Exception.* Additions to existing buildings of type 7 or 8 construction having a basement or second floor, or both, will be permitted under the scope of ch. Ind 54 providing the following conditions are satisfied:

a. The building contains no other occupancy except the owner's private residence;

b. Public occupancy is prohibited in the basement and second floor;

exclusively for sanitizing dishes and cooking utensils need not be installed in a fire-resistive enclosure.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. (2), Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9-1-57; am. (1), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. (1), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1), eff. 8-1-71, and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; am. (1), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Ind 55.30 Lights and lighting. (1) Electric lights shall be used for lighting where electric current is available. No oil lamps or other open lights shall be used in or about any stage containing scenery.

(2) No gas lighting of any kind shall be used on any stage containing scenery, nor in any property room, storage room, scene dock, or fly gallery, except in localities where electricity is not available.

(3) In all theaters and assembly halls, all stairways, passageways, and exit doors shall be properly lighted and shall remain lighted throughout every performance or entertainment and until the audience has left the building.

Ind 55.32 Sanitary facilities. (1) **TOILET ROOMS.** All occupancies included under the scope of this chapter shall be provided with separate toilet rooms for each sex. Separate toilet rooms for the employes and the general public need not be provided if the toilet rooms are accessible to both the employes and the general public.

(a) *Toilet rooms in connection with stage.* In theaters and assembly halls which are equipped for the showing of stage productions, separate toilet rooms for each sex, furnished with at least one water closet and one lavatory, shall be provided in connection with the stage.

(b) *Toilet room in connection with motion picture booth.* In theaters where motion picture machines are run continuously for a period of more than 2 hours without at least 10 minutes intermission for the motion picture machine operator for each 2-hour period, a toilet room, furnished with one water closet and one lavatory, shall be provided in direct connection with the motion picture booth.

(2) **SANITARY FIXTURES.** The number of water closets, urinals, lavatories and drinking facilities required for the total number of occupants of each sex shall be determined in accordance with the ratios established in Table 55.32, but in no case shall the ratio of the number of fixtures to number of employes be less than those specified in Table 54.12-B. The total number of persons will be considered equally divided between men and women unless a different ratio is established.

**TABLE 55.32
NUMBER OF FIXTURES REQUIRED FOR PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

Type of Occupancy	Type of Fixture				
	Water Closets (WC)		Urinals (U)	Lavatories (L)	Drinking Facilities (DF)
	Males (M)	Females (F)	Males (M)		
Places of assembly					
0-100 persons of each sex	1	1	0		One (DF) for each 150 persons up to 600
101-200 persons of each sex	1	2	1		
201-300 persons of each sex	1	3	2		
301-400 persons of each sex	2	4	2		
401-500 persons of each sex	2	5	3	One (L) for each 2 (WC) or (U), or both, or fraction	
501-600 persons of each sex	2	6	4		
Over 600 persons of each sex	One (WC) for each additional 600 (M), or fraction	One (WC) for each additional 275 (F), or fraction	One (U) for each additional 500 (M), or fraction		One additional (DF) for each additional 3000 persons
Taverns and restaurants¹	One (WC) for each 75 (M), or fraction	One (WC) for each 30 (F), or fraction	One (U) ² for each 50 (M), or fraction		0

¹The ratio of the number of fixtures to the number of persons accommodated in excess of 300 need be one-half of the figures shown.

²Urinal may be omitted in restaurants which accommodate less than 25 males and do not serve alcoholic beverages.

Note: See also rules of the department of health and social services for sanitary fixtures for public swimming places, mobile home parks, camping grounds, camping resorts, recreational camps and educational camps.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (2), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

FP Ind 55.33 Standpipes. (1) **FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDPIPES.** Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all buildings exceeding 60 feet in height.

(2) **FIRST-AID STANDPIPES.** First-aid standpipes shall be provided in all buildings, except churches and places of worship, having theaters and assembly halls with an occupancy load of more than 750 persons, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed. First-aid standpipes shall also be provided on the stage of every theater and assembly hall where a fire curtain is required.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

FP Ind 55.34 *Fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. Ind 51.22.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

FP Ind 55.35 Automatic sprinklers. In every theater and assembly hall where a proscenium curtain is required, approved automatic sprinklers,

*See Appendix A for further explanatory material.

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as specified in s. Ind 51.23, shall be provided under the stage, under the stage roof, and in the dressing rooms, but not in the automatic smoke outlet.

Ind 55.39 Use of "safety-base" film. (1) The requirements of ss. Ind 55.40 through 55.49 will not apply in buildings in which movie projectors are used with "safety-base" film provided the conditions of pars. (a) and (b) are met.

(a) The owner shall submit an affidavit to the department stating that "safety-base" film only will be used in all movie projectors.

(b) The affidavit shall be signed by the owner and the signature notarized.

Note: For definition of "owner," see s. 101.01 (2) (i), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5-1-71.

Ind 55.40 Motion picture machine booths, general. Every motion picture machine using nitro-cellulose film, together with all auxiliary and associated equipment, shall be enclosed in a booth so arranged as to permit the operator to walk freely on either side and in back of the machine. At least 48 square feet in area shall be provided for one machine, and 24 square feet additional for each machine over one. The ceiling height shall be not less than 7 feet.

Ind 55.41 Construction of booth. The floor of each motion picture booth shall be constructed of masonry or reinforced concrete, or shall be covered with not less than 2 inches of fire-resistive material. The walls and ceilings shall be not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

Ind 55.42 Doors. (1) The door to the booth shall be not larger than necessary for the safe and proper use and maintenance of the booth and equipment, but in no case shall its dimensions be smaller than 2 feet by 5 feet or larger than 3 feet by 7 feet. The top of the door shall be not less than 12 inches below the ceiling of the booth.

(2) The door shall be a tight-fitting self-closing fire door as specified in s. Ind 51.047, shall open outwardly, and shall not be equipped with any latch.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (2) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

Ind 55.43 Openings. (1) Two openings for each motion picture machine may be provided. The one for the operator's view shall not be larger than 200 square inches and the one for projection not larger than 120 square inches. Where separate stereopticon, spot, or floodlight machines are installed, not more than one opening shall be provided for each such machine for both the operator's view and the projection of light. All such openings shall be as small as practicable. **FP**

(2) Each opening shall be provided with an approved gravity shutter set into guides not less than one inch at sides and bottom, and overlapping the top of the opening by at least one inch when closed. Shutters

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shall be not less than No. 10 U.S. Standard gauge iron or equivalent, arranged to move freely in guides of like material and thickness bolted to the wall. Each shutter shall be suspended by a cord and shall be so arranged that closing is by gravity action. A fusible link shall be provided in the cord over each shutter. A link shall also be provided over each magazine, which on operating will close all shutters. A manual release shall be provided near each exit door by which all shutters can be closed simultaneously. Shutters shall not be blocked open nor held open in any manner except by the harness of cords and links as herein described.

Ind 55.44 Ventilation of booths. Every booth or room housing projection, sound or any other equipment which vitiates good air conditions or requires the attention of an attendant shall be ventilated as required by s. Ind 64.05. Fresh air intakes in booth walls, except for outside air, shall not exceed 72 square inches in area, nor be more than 3 inches above the floor. They shall be equipped with automatic shutters as described for projection openings.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67; am. Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76.

FP Ind 55.45 Relief outlets. Every booth or room housing projection, sound or other equipment which constitutes a fire, smoke, explosion or fuming hazard shall be equipped with one or more gravity outlets extending upward from the ceiling through the roof. The net area of such gravity relief outlets shall be equal to one per cent of the room or booth floor area, but not less than 12 inches in diameter. Such outlets shall be constructed as sheet metal ducts having double walls with ½ inch air space between, or better construction. Where a relief outlet passes through, or is within 18 inches of any combustible construction, or passes through any other occupancy, approved masonry flues as specified for chimneys, s. Ind 64.46, shall be used. The relief outlets shall be equipped, at the booth or room outlets, with a gravity shutter which will open automatically under excessive heat conditions. The automatic shutter shall normally be tightly closed where mechanical exhaust ventilation is required in the same room.

FP Ind 55.46 Electric wiring. All lights and electric wiring, also motors, arc lamps, rheostats, and associated electrical equipment shall conform in type and arrangement to the requirements of the Wisconsin state electrical code, vol. 2, ch. ILHR 16, Wis. Adm. Code.

Ind 55.47 Motion picture machine. Every projection machine shall be securely fastened to the floor, and together with sound head and other associated equipment, shall be of safe design. No part of the film shall be outside of a tight metal enclosure during projection, and the feed and take-up reels shall have riveted, flanged, or welded joints. A shutter shall be placed in front of the condenser, arranged so as to be closed except when held open by the operator, or by some mechanical device which will assure immediate closure when operation of the machine is stopped.

Ind 55.48 Fire protection in booth; care and use of film (1) All shelves, furniture and fixtures shall be incombustible. No combustible material shall be permitted to be within such booth, except films and film cement not exceeding one pint. Smoking is prohibited. Heating equipment in booths shall be limited to steam, warm air, hot water or

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